

REGULAR EVENTS

Friday General Meeting: 7:00 P.M., 1st Friday of Month, at 1715 S. 8th,
Oct. 7: (old Post Office bldg.) Turn south at Hulman and 8th. Talk-in:
146.685 RPT; (PL 151.4 MHz). Park in back or side of building.

The Board meeting immediately follows the General Meeting.
Our meetings are open. Visitors are welcome!

Every The Club Station is open, 7 - 9 P.M., First Thursday, Downstairs,
Thursday: Red Cross Bldg., 700 S. 3rd. Other Thursdays, New Club Station,
N.E. corner of 7th and Idaho. Entrance and parking back of Bldg.

SPECIAL EVENTS

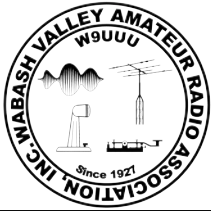
WVARA Campout, Lincoln Trail, State Park Sep. 30 - Oct 2

Amateur Radio Presentation, ISU Cunningham Library Oct. 4

Deuces Wild Duathlon: Contact John, N9YRX Oct. 8

Bike the Bridges in Parke Co: Contact Chuck, W9COD Oct. 8

Accelerated Tech Class, ISU Cunningham Library Oct. 9-13



THE BANDSPREAD

OCTOBER 2011



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WABASH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION INC.

LABOR DAY PARADE AND FAMILY LEARNING DAY HIGHLIGHT SEPTEMBER



The WVARA again participated in the annual Labor Day parade on Wabash Avenue, in Terre Haute. It was a chilly day but lots of people turned out to view the many participants.

We were assigned a position way back towards the end of the queue so there was plenty of time to kill before the start of the parade.

We are puzzled at why there are no rules about how close to the floats the children can get when pursuing the literally tons of candy thrown at these events. But everyone seemed to have a good time. -ed



Family Learning Day involves numerous organizations who put up booths both outside and inside the Vigo Co. Library. They are dedicated to piquing an interest in various activities such as reading, music, the arts and of course, Amateur Radio. A sure-fire draw to our operation was free popcorn.

We had two bands in operation, 40M in the van and 20M outside at the table. Dave, N9FMD, contacted a fellow North Dakotan in a mobile in Western North Dakota and had a long conversation with him.

You never know when or where the ham radio bug will 'bite'.

Presentation at ISU Library On Amateur Radio

Its going to be a fun interactive hour finding out how "ham radio" is different from CB radio and all the different aspects that make it so much fun and is for everyone from youngsters to people in their 90's. Special emphasis will be on Amateur Radio Emergency Services and why the FCC has allocated so many frequencies to ham radio. This is Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7 P.M., at the ISU Library.

This Month's Program



Our speaker for the October meeting is Lou Everett, WA5LOU. He and his wife recently moved to Indiana from Texas. He is the former net manager for the Texas Traffic Net, former Net Manager for the Texas Emergency Net, formerly Assistant Section Manager for the STX Section of the ARRL. Lou is currently the ARRL Indiana Section Traffic Manager.

He will speak on the National Traffic System and its relevance today.

Local Nets

Sunday Evening	9:00 P.M.	ET
WVARA Net	146.685/R	*
Monday Evening	9:00 P.M.	ET
Clay Co. Em. Svs. Net	146.580/S	
Tuesday Evening	8:00 P.M.	ET
Parke/Verm. Em. Svs. Net	146.715/R	
Tuesday Evening	9:00 P.M.	ET
Vigo Co. Em. Svs. Net	146.685/R	
Tuesday Evening	9:30 P.M.	ET
Vigo Co. Em. Svs. Net	444.350/R	
Wednesday Evening	9:00 P.M.	ET
Clark Co. Em. Svs. Net	146.595/S	
Thursday Evening	9:00 P.M.	ET
CAARLA Net	146.685/R	
Illiana Skywarn Severe Weather Net	When needed 145.230/444.350/R	

* First Sunday of the month is Simplex night. The WVARA Net meets, that night only, on 146.595/S

This was just received at press time: We are sad to acknowledge that Bob Harker, KC9UU, is a silent key! More in next month's issue.



General Meeting Minutes 09/02/2011

The General meeting of the WVARA was called to order on Friday, September 2, 2011, at 7:15 P.M., by President Kevin Berlen, K9HX. Vice President Nick Vinardi, N9WG, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. **Announcements:** (1) The Board Meeting will follow this meeting. (2) An upgrade announced was Ann, KC9RBF, to Extra. (3) Help Wanted: The WVARA needs a Bandspread editor. Gary, K9ERE, will be stepping down, after many years, at the end of this year. (4) Vigo County Public Library Family Learning day is Sept 24th, at and around the library. Help is needed to interface with the public. (5) 2nd Annual WVARA camping event will be Sept 30th – Oct 2nd at Lincoln Trails Park. Campers are encouraged to locate near the shower building, the same place we were before. Because they now charge extra for reservations and cancellations are a real hassle, everyone is on his own to either make a reservation or just show up and take what is available. (6) We are encouraging folks to help out in the Covered Bridge bike ride in Parke County Oct. 8th. See Chuck, W9COD, if you will help with communications. (7) Oct. 8th is also the Deuces Wild Duathlon in Clark County. See John, N9YRX, if you are willing to help with communications there. (8) The CARLA group will meet Sat. Sept. 17th, at Royal Oaks. (9) Extra classes will start Oct. 6th at the Glas-Col (old Post Office) annex at 7:00 P.M. Cost is \$5.00 if you already have the book and \$30.00 if you do not have the book. Testing will be near the end of November. (10) There will be a presentation to a general audience about Amateur Radio on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at the ISU Cunningham Memorial Library, 7 P.M., In the Library Events Area. Sunday - Thursday, October 9 – 13, Tech classes will be held, from 6 P.M. - 9 P.M., each night. **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report will stand as published in *The Bandspread*. **Treasurer's Report:** Jeff, AB9WR, moved his report of \$10,438.21 in all Club accounts be accepted as a motion. Bob, KB9PTM, seconded the motion. Motion carried. **Old Business:** None. **New Business:** None. The program was a Cookout and a recap of Field Day.

- Respectfully submitted, John Van Sandt, N9YRX, Secretary

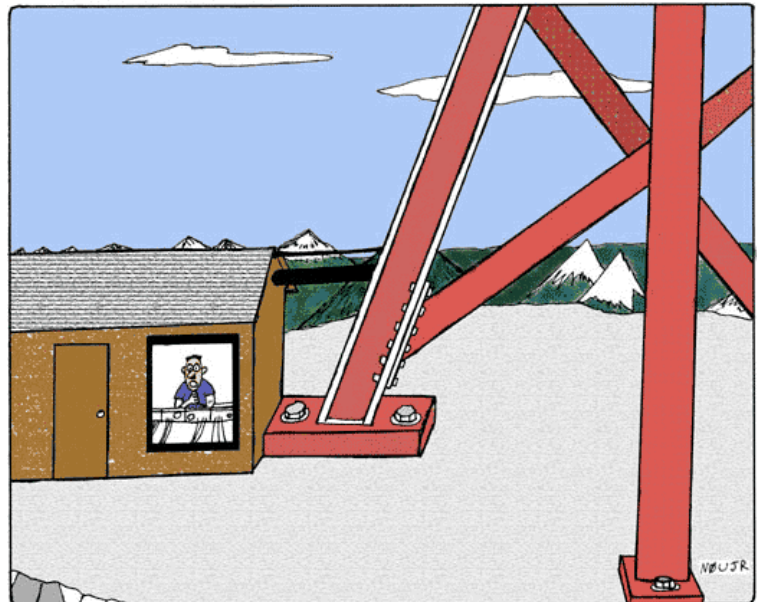
Board Meeting Minutes 09/02/2011

The WVARA Board meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M., by President Kevin Berlen, K9HX. Others present were Chuck Procarione, W9COD, Member at Large; Nick Vinardi, N9WG, Vice President; Jeff Mitchel, AB9WR, Treasurer; John Van Sandt, N9YRX, Secretary; Gary Adams, W9EEU, Trustee; Ted Brentlinger, K9SGL, Member at Large. Ann, Mitchell, KC9RBF, also attended. **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report will stand as published in *The Bandspread*. **Treasurer's Report:** Jeff moved his report of \$10,438.21 in all Club accounts be accepted as a motion. Nick seconded the motion. Motion carried. **Old Business:** (1) Repeater upgrade: Kevin now has a volunteer to assist him; he had no updates this meeting. (2) Club station #2: no updates this meeting. (3) The 2011 program schedule was discussed. The Indiana Traffic Manager, WA5LOU, is scheduled for the Oct. meeting. Homebrew night will be the November program and the Club Auction plus the Board election will be at the December meeting. (4) Promotional operating event: Family Learning day was discussed. (5) Vigo ARES funding, no updates. (6) Club inventory to be completed with Gary, K9ERE, to send list for tagging equipment. (7) As of this meeting, the Bandspread Editor vacancy is still unfilled. We are looking for a member to pick this up. Gary, K9ERE, is willing to help the new person get

up-to-speed. (8) The Clark County Radio Vehicle now has new tires courtesy Chuck. (9) Field Day 2012 needs feedback from Club members to suggest improvements, i.e. do we need to scale back the number of stations to reduce the setup and takedown workload? (10) A new hamfest location is needed. We are investigating the Drivers Ed. building, Clay County Fairgrounds, Ryves Hall, and the VFW. Kevin will to do further investigation. **New Business:** (1) Ted will investigate the use of St. Ann's facility for the Christmas dinner early in Dec. (3) Motion was made by John to adjourn and seconded by Nick. Motion carried. Board meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

- Respectfully submitted, John Van Sandt, N9YRX, Secretary

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"Yes, I really am running just 5 watts QRP... although I suppose I do have an above average antenna system..."

The Bandspread is the official publication of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Organized around 1927, as a non-profit public service organization, it was affiliated with the ARRL on April 5, 1934.

Board of Directors:

President	Kevin Berlen, K9HX
Vice-President	Nick Vinardi, N9WG
Secretary	John VanSandt, N9YRX
Treasurer	Jeff Mitchell, AB9WR
Trustee	Gary Adams, W9EEU
Board Members	Ted Brentlinger, K9SGL
at Large	Chuck Procarione, W9COD

Publications:

Bandspread Editor:	Gary Wheeler, K9ERE
Bandspread Facilitator:	Dave Littlejohn, N9FMD
Bandspread Printing:	Gary Adams, W9EEU
eBandspread Posting:	David Pifer, N9YNF
Submissions: e-mail the editor at	bandspread@w9uuu.org
or mail to	P.O. Box 10081, Terre Haute, IN 47801

Webmaster:

David Pifer, N9YNF
Contact the webmaster at webmaster@w9uuu.org to join our list server or if you have a problem receiving the *eBandspread*.

Sunday Night Net Manager: Kay Brentlinger, KWOLF



Chuck, W9COD, is raring to go.



So is the rest of the gang.



Mayor Duke Bennett was there. Oh! It is an election year, isn't it! And he comes to Field Day too!



The parade started out, as always, with Terre Haute's finest.



It's Yaesu, the Wonder Dog! He was Grand Marshall! No. We're just kidding. (Actually, he's running for mayor.)



Can't have a parade without fire trucks.



Fred Nation for mayor, just to give equal time, but our money's still on Yaesu.



Ann, Jeff, Kevin and Steve did the 'hoofing' with the candy toss.



Will they run out of steam or candy first?



Every parade needs a band. This year it's West Vigo High School! Good show, guys and gals!



L-R Jeff, AB9WR; Yaesu, 'AK9DOG'; John, N9YRX; Ann, KC9RBF; Chuck, W9COD; Steve, KC9RBU and Kevin, K9HX. TNX, folks, for lending a hand!

This is the third of five installments from Joe, KC9JAC and Melanie, KC9JMC, on a trip they took back a while ago. These are excerpts from an article Joe wrote for a boating magazine dealing mainly with generators and batteries.

With the climate changing as it is, we suspect that there will be more occurrences of last February's ice storm that left a large part of the Wabash Valley without power during subfreezing temperatures. Therefore, we think it may be of interest to the local Amateur Radio community as well.

SSB RADIOS

Both the ICOM-802 Marine radio and the Kenwood TS-2000



radio are 12-volt units that obtain their power from the 24-volt House bank through a Newmar 32-12-15 DC-DC Converter. It takes DC input from 20 to 50 volts and outputs 13.6 volts at a maximum of 30 amps. Since the ICOM is in my office and the Kenwood is in the pilot house and not used simultaneously both are connected to the Newmar. The ICOM-802 has a Pactor IIC modem attached which I use to download weather charts (WEFAX) and weather and e-mail from Sailmail. Sailmail uses the same Airmail program as Winlink. Sailmail does not have as many base stations as Winlink, but being in the Maritime Mobile Radio Service it is permissible to transmit business correspondence not legal in the Amateur Radio Service.

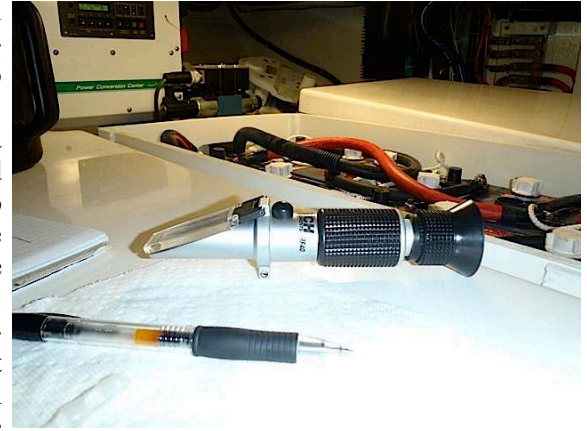


MAINTENANCE

Every month I open all 96 cells and check the electrolyte levels. The Trace Charger has a temperature sensor attached to the center-most House battery. As the battery temperature rises due to environmental effects or high charging currents the voltage is reduced, but this does not eliminate all gassing of the cells.

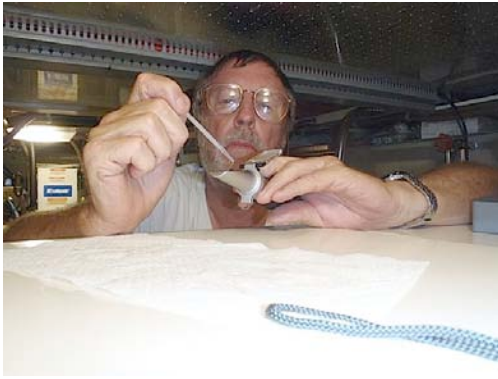
While on board I set the float voltage .1 volt above battery normal. While away from the boat for long periods I set the voltage at the nominal voltage. Setting the higher voltage causes the cells to use more water, but helps keep the plates at the same capacity to reduce the frequency of preventative equalization.

Every four months I measure the Specific Gravity of all cells and compare the SG of all cells in a battery bank to each other. The SG of a fully charged cell is 1.255 to 1.275. If there is a variance of +/-0.015 between highest and lowest cells I perform a preventative equalization charge.



All lead acid batteries need to receive a certain amount of overcharge. The capacity of each plate is not identical and will vary slightly. Equalization or "controlled overcharge" is required to bring each battery plate to a fully charged condition. To perform an equalization charge I must shut down all DC circuits and shift all 120VAC loads off the inverter for the four hours (sometimes more) it takes for the charge voltage to rise to 32 volts. I start with a "fully charged" 26.8 volt House bank and overcharge to 32 volts and then continue for another two hours at low current. The proper equalization current is 5A per 100AH of capacity, or in my case 49 amps. I can set the bulk, absorption, float and equalization voltages as well as the charge current on the Trace control panel. During normal charge cycles the maximum current must be no more than 20% of the total amp capacity of the batteries. For the House batteries this is a maximum charge of 198 amps. For equalization I remove all cell caps, keep the hatch open and force ventilation with a blower to help cool the batteries and purge the hydrogen gas. I hear a constant hiss of percolating electrolyte over the sound of the cooling fans in the Trace charger!

The House batteries are the only ones I can equalize through a built-in charging system. The Navigation batteries and engine start batteries I have to equalize using a 2 amp/10 amp, 12-volt manual charger. I also equalize the individual 12-volt generator batteries as required. Most automatic (electronic) chargers will float the batteries at their nominal voltages. Every time a lead acid battery is discharged and recharged the battery does not return to its full charge. Battery capacity instruments like the Link will not show this reduction in capacity. When its measure of x-amps replaced equals x-amps used it indicates 100% charge even though the plates have not fully recovered. Using a manual charger will permit equalization (controlled overcharge). The equalization may take a long time and must be carefully monitored to measure SG and replace electrolyte which is boiled off. As I write this I am in the fourth day of a corrective equalizing charge on the old 6-volt starting batteries for the starboard engine. The specific gravity of the "dying cell" is coming up nicely. There is one time that voltage readings and specific gravity readings will fail to show a bad cell. That's when one or more of the plates in a cell have shed its lead or lead oxide. After a charge the volt meter and specific gravity will show a fully charged battery but it won't start the engine or run a load. The test for this condition is the "toaster"



or Milton 1260 Hi Range Battery Tester. This puts a high amperage load on the battery for ten seconds and then gives its voltage reading after test. The battery under test will show a full charge voltage before the test, but when the toaster is turned on the voltage will dive into the bad zone.

I have used just about every kind of



floating bulb hydrometer made and they all have the same problem, reading the specific gravity accurately as the bulb bobs and spins in the electrolyte. Besides being hard to read most of the time the column of numbers wants to rotate around to the opposite side of the bulb no matter how I twist the darn thing. I discovered the Extech Industries RF40 Reflectometer. It's the greatest thing since the transistor. It's smaller than a hydrometer and easy to use. Take a sample of electrolyte in a small squeeze bulb and put one drop on the unit's glass plate and close a plastic plate over the sample to flatten the sample. Hold the unit up to your eye and read the specific gravity as a line crossing the scale. The RF40 also directly reads the percentage concentration and freeze point of both propylene glycol and ethylene glycol antifreeze on two other scales. It takes a little more time per cell to use, but the accuracy of measurement and ease of reading makes up for that.

I have a large investment in batteries whose operation is critical while we're underway so maintenance is very important to me.



Chuck's idea to feed people was right on! We couldn't make the popcorn fast enough.



Free rides for the young and not-so-young.



Merl, W9ISP, stopped around to chat.



Chuck is recruiting new hams for the future. Or are they more interested in his iPhone?



Roy, KG9GN and friend stopped by as well.



Pat, KA9ALI, worked the reading room. Anyone who read a book got a free clown nose.



"Straight from the horse's mouth." Ham interviews horse. (The horse is on the left.)

Triannual Financial Report

9/25/2011

Category Description	1/1/2011- 9/25/2011
INCOME	
Uncategorized	12,267.84
2011Membership	300.00
Capital Fund Projects	75.00
CK. 11856	1,500.00
WVARA Membership	335.00
TOTAL INCOME	14,477.84
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	3,102.72
Bank Charge	18.00
Biz Supplies	1,100.38
Brentlinger Dinner	168.59
Cash	300.00
Domain Name Renewal	15.00
Groceries	212.14
Groceries 2011 Field Day	97.04
Groceries Field Day	194.58
Groceries Picnic	62.69
Insurance	320.00
Postage	23.75
Postage and Delivery	59.40
Printing and Reproduction	102.73
T Shirts	405.00
Travel	
Turner Coach	-100.00
TOTAL Travel	-100.00
Visa Gift Cards	115.80
WVARA Antenna Repair	91.62
WVARA\Badge	5.34
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,294.78
TRANSFERS	
FROM Capital Funds Project	2,000.00
TO Checking	-2,000.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	8,183.06



The President's Corner

Welcome once again to the October edition of The Bandspread. With the winter months approaching, now is a good time to think about preparing your station for the potentially rough weather ahead. Last winter we had an ice storm that took power out for several areas in the Wabash Valley for several days.

If you have a generator, this would be a good time to get it out and make sure it is in good running order. If it has been setting for several months, drain the old fuel, and replace it with fresh fuel. It would be a good idea to add a fuel stabilizer as well. Then start and run the engine for about 10 minutes. If you have a fuel cutoff, shut it off and let the engine die from fuel starvation, and then shut the run switch off. This will ensure that the generator will start with minimum effort if you would happen to need it.

This is also a good time to check your station batteries, if you are so equipped. Take a look at the electrolyte level and add distilled water if necessary. Make sure the connections are in good condition and everything is clean and tight.

As we transition to a new editor for The Bandspread, we need to get into the habit of submitting pictures and articles to the new editor. Gary, K9ERE, has not only been the editor, put in many cases has been the photographer and writer as well. He has allowed us all to become somewhat lax in submitting articles and pictures. While there have been some who have been faithful about doing this, each of us who attends a meeting or Amateur Radio activity need to get into the habit of taking a few pictures, or throwing a few thoughts about the event together and submitting them. The Bandspread is your newsletter, and we will need your help in moving forward in these areas.

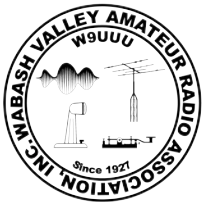
I am looking forward to the program for the October meeting. It will be presented by Lou Everett, WA5LOU. Lou is the Indiana Section Traffic Manager, and will be giving a talk on the National Traffic System and it's relevance today. Lou has asked that we "pack the house" and try to have a maximum turn out for his presentation. This would be a great time to invite a ham who has not been to a meeting for a while to attend, or maybe for you to come out and join us.

Well, that is about all for this month. I hope to see each of you at our meeting this month.

Until then, 73.

Kevin, K9HX

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P.O. Box 10081
Terre Haute, IN 47801



October 2011

2011= year; NL= Newsletter only;
COMP= Complimentary Membership;
LIFE=Life Membership If there is no symbol showing on your mailing label, this is a one-time complimentary copy of The Bandspread. If so, we invite you to fill out the enclosed membership form to join the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association.

WVARA VE TESTING

(WALK-INS WELCOME!)

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA:

1st Sunday of even-numbered months; 1:30 P.M., Indiana time.

1715 S. 8th St., West side of 8th St. behind Glas-Col. Park on side of bldg; use the front entrance on 8th St.

For further info, contact:

Ray Andrews, K9DUR, (812) 535-3222

PARIS, ILLINOIS:

2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months; 8:30 A.M. Illinois time.

Burkybile Law Office

15175 U.S. Highway 150

For further info, contact:

Terry Hackett, KB9ZVA, (217) 465-4884

October 2, Terre Haute

November 12, Paris

RYVES VE TESTING

WALK-INS WELCOME!

2nd Thursday of every month, 7 P.M., Indiana time, at Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall.

For further info, contact: Jim Osburn, WD9EYB, at 238-0584 or wd9eyb0409@indianakits.com

October 13, Terre Haute

